

AN ACT

For the Security of

HIS HIGHNES

THE

LORD PROTECTOR

His Person,

And Continuance of the Nation in
Peace and Safety.



As much as the prosperity and safety of this Nation, and the Dominions thereunto belonging, very much dependeth (under God) upon the security and preservation of the Person of his Highness; And for that it hath manifestly appeared, that divers wicked Plots and means have been of late devised and laid, as well in Foreign parts beyond the Seas, as also within this Nation, to the great endangering his Highness Person, and the embroyling this Commonwealth in new and intestine wars, and Seditions, to the utter Ruine and Subversion thereof, if the same had taken effect. Therefore, and for the preventing of such great Perils and Mischiefs as may hereafter ensue, by the like detestable Conspiracies and Practises; The Parliament, out of a deep Sense and Consideration

ration thereof, do desire that it may be Enacted
 and Ordained, And be it Enacted and Ordained
 by His Highness the Lord Protector, and the
 Parliament, and the Authority thereof, That
 if any person or persons shall from and after
 the Tenth day of October, in the year of our
 Lord, One thousand six hundred fifty and six,
 Attempt, Compass, or Imagine the death of
 the Lord Protector; And such Attempting,
 Compassing, or Imagining shall declare by
 open deed; Or shall levy War, or Plot, Con-
 tribute, or Endeavour to stir up, or raise Force
 against the Lord Protector, or the Government,
 to subvert or alter the same, and shall by open
 Deed declare such Endeavour, Plotting or Con-
 tributing; Or shall advisedly and maliciously
 Proclaim, Declare, Publish, or Promote Charles
 Stuart, eldest Son to the late King, or any other
 Issue or Posterity of the said late King, or any
 other person, claiming by, from or under him,
 any, or either of them, to be King, Queen, or
 Chief Magistrate of Great Brittain, or of England,
 Scotland, or Ireland, or of any the Dominions
 thereto, or to any of them belonging; Or shall
 be Aiding, Assisting, Comforting, or Abetting
 unto any person or persons, that shall by any
 ways, or means whatsoever, endeavour or at-
 tempt the reviving, or setting up of any pretend-
 ed Right, Title, or Claim of the said Charles
 Stuart, or of any other the Issue or Posterity of
 the said late King, or of any person or persons
 claiming under him, or them, to any of the Of-
 fices, Style, Title, Dignity, or Authority afore-
 said, or any of them; Or shall hold any Intelli-
 gence or Correspondence with the said Charles
 Stuart, or with James Stuart, or Henry Stuart, or with
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the late Queen their Mother, or any, or either of them; Or shall give or contribute any sum or sums of Money, or other Aid or Assistance to the said Charles Stuart, or unto James and Henry Sons of the said late King, or to the late Queen their Mother, or to any or either of them; Or shall Plot, Contribute, or Endeavour the Betraying, Surrendering, or Yielding up any City, Town, Castle, Fort, Magazine, Ship, Vessel, or Forces by Land, or by Sea, belonging to this Common-wealth, unto the Enemies thereof; Or shall advisedly and maliciously Plot, Contribute, or Endeavour by any open Act, to stir up Mutiny in the Army or Fleet, or amongst any of the Forces thereof, by Sea or Land, to Withdraw any Officer or Souldier, Mariner or Sea-man, from his or their obedience to the Lord Protector; Or shall Invite, Procure, Aid, or Assist any Foreigner, or Stranger to invade these Nations of England, Scotland, or Ireland, or any the Dominions thereunto belonging; Or shall Adhere to any Forces raised, or that shall be hereafter raised against the Lord Protector of this Common-wealth; Then all and every the Offences above mentioned shall be, and are hereby Deemed, Ordained, and Adjudged to be high Treason. And that in all such Cases, and upon all such occasions the Lord Chancellor, Lord Keeper, or Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal of England, for the time being, are hereby Authorized and required from time to time, by Warrant from His Highness the Lord Protector, to issue out one or more Commission or Commissions under the Great Seal of England, to the respective persons hereafter named, That is to

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say;

say; For England and Wales, the Town of Barwick upon Tweed, and the Isles of Guernsey and Jersey, The Lord Chancellor, Lord Keeper, or Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal of England for the time being; The Lords Commissioners of the Treasury for the time being; The Chief Justice of the Upper Bench; The Master of the Rolls; The Chief Justice of the Common-Pleas; The Chief Baron of the Exchequer; The Justices of the Upper Bench; The Justices of the Common-Pleas, The Barons of the Exchequer, and every of them for the time being, Lislebone Long Esq; Recorder of the City of London, Roger Hill Serjeant at Law, Unton Crook Serjeant at Law, Erasmus Earl Serjeant at Law, George Lord Euro, Sir William Strickland, William Earl of Salisbury, Sir Walter St. John Baronet, Sir Christopher Pack, Sir Thomas Vyner, Sir John Dethick, Robert Tichburn, Thomas Foot, John Ireton, Aldermen of the City of London, Sir John Hobart Baronet, Sir William Roberts, Sir John Thoroughgood of Kensington, Sir John Coppleston, Sir Thomas Pride, Sir John Barkstead Lieutenant of the Tower of London, Luke Robinson Esq; Anthony Rous Esq; John Hildesley Esq; Alexander Blake Esq; Owen Row Esq; Henry Hatfel Esq; Edward Cresset Esq; Richard Lucy Esq; John Fothergill Esq; Thomas Whitegrave Esq; Charles George Cock one of the Judges of the Admiralty, John Godolphin Doctor of the Laws, one of the Judges of the Admiralty, Captain John Brown of Orpington, Dennis Bond Esq; Sir Richard Combes, John Marsh Esq; Adam Washington, Francis Clinton, alias Fiennes, John Ward, Richard Duntton, James Chadwick, Bulsey Mansel, Esqs; Sir George Fleetwood of the County

ty of Bucks Knight, Nicholas Green Esq: Thomas
 Bendish Esq: Sir John Traver, William Under-
 wood Alderman of the City of London, Arthur
 Stanhope Esq: Sir Francis Russel Baronet, John
 Bingham Esq: Thomas Croxton, Dudley Temple,
 Richard Lilburn Esqs: John James of Trippleton in
 the County of Hereford Esq: Thomas Dickenson
 Esq: Alderman of the City of York, Samuel
 Moody Esq: Richard Boughton, William Freeman,
 George Downing, John Hagget, Bennet Hoskins,
 John Corbet, William Foxwill, Edward Bullstrode,
 Evan Seys, Esqs: Robert Wood of Bredonash in the
 County of Norfolk Esq: Anthony Nicoll, Azariah
 Husbards, John Pitman, Christopher Lister, John
 Carter, Robert Jermy, Peter Legay, Henry Cannon,
 Esqs: John Geldart, Alderman of York, John Pal-
 mer Doctor of Physick, Francis Laisels, John Stone,
 Alban Cox, John Grew of Bedford, Esqs; Cornelius
 Holland, Peter Ceeley, James Dewey, Henry Barring-
 ton, Esqs; John Crofts, Wroth Rogers, William Cul-
 len, Abraham Babington, William Puckle, Charles
 Doyley, Edward Herbert, Henry King, Thomas
 Brooks, Nicholas Saltar, Esqs; Robert Weaver of
 Amstrey in the County of Hereford Esq: John Gor-
 ges Esq; Thomas Balaet Alderman of Coventry,
 Robert Aldworth, Joseph Hawksworth, John Fiennes,
 George Byard, Edward Clud, Esqs; Richard Fincher,
 John Carey of Dichley Esqs: Edmund Waring Esq:
 Thomas Allen Alderman of the City of London,
 Robert Castle, Thomas Gorges, Robert Shapscot, Esqs:
 Thomas Pury junior Esq: John Price, James Philips,
 William Put, John Spadman, William Shield, Esqs:
 Sir John Read Baronet, John Upton, Ralph Ry-
 mere, Esqs: Walter Biggs Alderman of London,
 William Goffe Esq: Francis Hacker, Henekiah Haines,
 John Biscoe, Esqs: William Boteler of Oundle Esq:

Francis

Francis Underwood, George Gwyn, Henry Williams, *Esqs*; **Sir** Thomas Homewood, William Purefoy *Esq*; James Hely of Salisbury *Esq*; or any seven-
teen or more of them. And for Scotland, Roger
Lord Broghill, **General** George Monk, Charles
Howard of Naworth *Esq*; **Sir** Edward Rhodes, John
Swinton, Adrian Scroop, Samuel Disbrow, Nathaniel
Whetham, *Esquires*: George Smith, William Lawrence,
Edward Motely, Henry Goodier, *Esqs*; **Sir** James
Lermount of Bacomby, Alexander Peirson, (Andrew
Ker, *Esqs*; John **Earl** of Tweedale, **Sir** John Weyms
of Bogy, **Sir** Andrew Ker of Greenhead, **Sir** James
Macdowel, **Sir** Alexander Wedderburn, John Lockart
Esq; Alexander Dowglas **Doctor of Physick**, Da-
vid Barckley, Andrew Ramsey, Alexander Jeffery, *Esqs*;
Lord Strénever, Richard Ashfield, Thomas Talbot,
Timothy Wilks, Leonard Lidcot, Edmund Syler, Wil-
liam Gough, Steven Winthrop, Joseph Strange, *Esqs*;
Charles Fairfax of Menston *Esq*; John Malon *Esq*;
Davis *Esq*; Roger Sawry *Esq*; Peter Crisp
Esq; Ralph Knight *Esq*; Thomas Read *Esq*; Henry
Whalley, William Daniel, Ralph Cobbet, Richard
Mayor, Abraham Holmes, John Peirson, Noel Butler,
Miles Man, William Packer, Thomas Morgan, Wil-
liam Michel, Thomas Fitch, Jeremy Tolhurst, *Esqs*;
Robert Fenwick of Bedlington *Esq*; **Sir** Wilfrid
Lawson, William Fenwick of Wallington *Esq*; Luke
Killingworth, **Captain** John Ogle of Kitley, Henry
Horsley of Milburn Graunge, *Esqs*; Thomas Bonner,
George Dawson, William Johnson, **Albermen of**
Newcastle upon Tyne, John Toppin, Edward Fen-
wick of Stanton, *Esqs*; William Briscoe *Esq*; or any
thirteen or more of them. And for Ireland, **The**
Lord Chancellor, **Chief Justices** of either
Bench, **Chief Baron**, the **Justices** of either
Bench, the **Barons** of the **Exchequer**, and every
of

of them for the same being, Robert Goodwin, Matthew Thomlinson, William Bury *Esqs*: **Sir** James Barry, Arthur Hill, Vincent Gookin, William Jephson, Henry Markam, John Hewson, Richard Lawrence, Thomas Cooper, Thomas Sadler, Jeremy Zankey, Henry Pritty, *Esqs*; **Sir** John Reynolds, **Knight**, Robert Phaire, John Fowk, *Esqs*: **Sir** Theophilus Jones, **Sir** Robert Meredith, **Sir** John Temple, **Sir** Robert King, **Sir** Hardress Waller, Solomon Richards the younger, **Sir** William Fenton, Henry Ingoldsby, George Ingoldsby, John King *Esqs*; Richard Tigh **Alderman of** Dublin, John Bret, Henry Owen, Francis Bolton, Tristram Berrisford, Morris Fenton, Robert Southwell, **Sir** Charles Coot, Childley Coot, Robert Ormsby, John Percival, Thomas Southwell, William Warden, Daniel Redman, Nicholas Purdon, Francis Fowlks, Walter Waller, Thomas Herbert, John Bice **Recorder of** Dublin, Anthony Morgan, Richard Blany, William Aston, Edward Roberts, James Standish, John Vernon, William Duckenfield, Peter Wallis, Daniel Abbot, Robert Saunders, Peter Stubber, William Halsey, Ralph King, William Arnop, John Nelson, John Bridges, Henry Jones, John Cook, James Trail, or any thirteen, or more of them.

Which said Commissioners respectively shall by vertue of this Act have Authority to examine, hear and determine all the Matters, Crimes and Offences aforesaid, and all Circumstances thereof; and also to hear and determine all Dispositions of the Treasons in this Act mentioned, and to take order for charging the Offender or Offenders, with all or any the Crimes, Matters or Things aforesaid, and for the receiving of their personal answer thereunto.

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to; and for examination of witnesses upon Oath, (which the said respective Commissioners are hereby authorized to administer) and thereupon, or upon confession of the party, or in default of such answer, to proceed to Conviction and final Sentence, as in cases of High Treason, and Disposition of Treason, according to Justice, and the merits of the Cause; and such final Sentence to execute, or cause to be executed speedily and impartially: And that every person and persons so Sentenced and adjudged, shall forfeit as in cases of High Treason and Disposition of Treason. And it is hereby further Enacted, That the said Commissioners respectively are hereby authorized to meet and sit at such convenient time and place from time to time, as by the said respective Commissioners, or the major part of them, under their Hands and Seals shall be appointed, and to adjourn from time to time, and place to place, as the said respective Commissioners, or the major part of them then meeting shall hold fit: And the said respective Commissioners shall have Power and Authority to appoint all Officers needfull for the putting in execution the Statutes and Edicts in this Act contained. And it is hereby further Enacted, That all Mayors, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, Constables, Bayliffs, and all other Officers both Civil and Military, and all other the Good People of this Commonwealth, shall be aiding and assisting to the said respective Commissioners in the premises. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That every of the Commissioners aforesaid, before he

he shall do or execute the Office of a Commissioner by vertue of this present Act, shall take the Oath ensuing;

I A. B. do swear, That I will well and truly, according to the best of my skill and knowledge, execute the several Powers given unto me and others, by a Commission under the Great Seal of *England*, issued out in pursuance of an Act, Entituled, *An Act for the Security of His Highness the Lord Protector His Person, and Continuance of the Nation in Peace and Safety.*

And the Lord Chancellor, Lord Keeper, or Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal of England for the time being, or any of them, are hereby authorized to administer the said Oath accordingly to the said Commissioners for England and Wales, Town of Berwick upon Tweed, and Isles of Guernsey and Jersey, And the Lord Deputy, Chancellor, President of the Council of Ireland, or any one of them, are hereby authorized to administer the said Oath accordingly to the said Commissioners for Ireland: And the President, or any one or more of the Council of Scotland, are hereby authorized to administer the said Oath accordingly to the said Commissioners for Scotland, Provided, That the said respective Commissioners, or any of them, shall not by vertue or force of this Present Act, or any Power thereby given unto them, examine try or proceed against any person or persons, other

other then such who shall be first by name appointed by the Lord Protector, with the advice and consent of his Council, to be by them the said Commissioners so examined, tryed or proceeded against. Provided allwaies, and it is hereby further enacted, That this Act, and the Powers and Authorities hereby given, shall continue and remain in force from henceforth, untill the end of the last Session of the next Parliament, and no longer.

L O N D O N :

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to His Highness. 1657.
